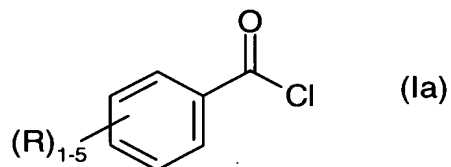
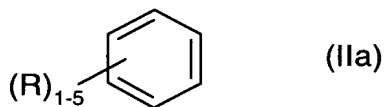


What is claimed is:

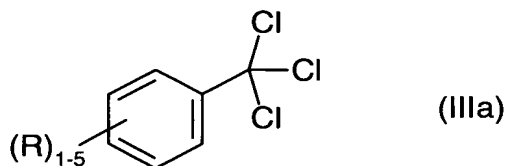
1. A process for preparing mono- or poly-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or -halogen-substituted arylcarbonyl chlorides (I), by, in a first stage, reacting a mono- or poly-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or -halogen-substituted aromatic (II) with CCl₄ in the presence of a Friedel-Crafts catalyst to give the corresponding mono- or poly-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or -halogen-substituted trichloromethylated aromatic (III), and, in a second stage, treating the trichloromethylated aromatic (III) with water or a protic acid in the presence of a catalyst to obtain the arylcarbonyl chloride (I).
2. The process according to claim 1 for preparing mono- to pentasubstituted benzoyl chlorides of the general formula (Ia)



where R is in each case independently halogen or a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl radical,
by, in a first stage, reacting a mono- to pentasubstituted benzene of the general formula (IIa)



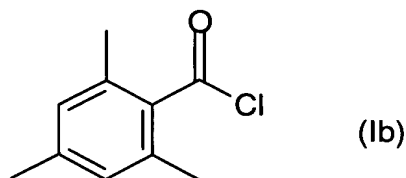
where R is as defined above,
as the substituted aromatic (II), with CCl₄ in the presence of a Friedel-Crafts catalyst to give the mono- to pentasubstituted benzotrichloride of the general formula (IIIa)



where R is as defined above,

and, in a second stage, treating the benzotrichloride (IIIa) with water or a protic acid in the presence of a catalyst to obtain the benzoyl chloride (Ia).

3. The process according to claim 2, wherein trimethylbenzoyl chloride of the formula (Ib)



is prepared from mesitylene as the substituted aromatic (II).

4. The process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the molar ratio of CCl_4 to substituted aromatic (II) is from 1:1 to 3.5:1.
5. The process according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the Friedel-Crafts catalyst used is AlCl_3 and a complex of trichloromethylated aromatic (III) and AlCl_3 is formed in the first stage.
6. The process according to claim 5, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of AlCl_3 per equivalent of the substituted aromatic (II) are used.
7. The process according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the complex of trichloromethylated aromatic (III) and AlCl_3 is hydrolyzed with water at from 20 to 100°C .
8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the hydrolysis of the complex of trichloromethylated aromatic (III) and AlCl_3 is carried out continuously.
9. The process according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the trichloromethylated aromatic (III) is treated in the second stage with chloroacetic acid as the protic acid.
10. The process according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the trichloromethylated aromatic (III) is treated with water in the second stage.
11. The process according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the catalyst used in the second stage is FeCl_3 .

12. The process according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the trichloromethylated aromatic (III) is isolated as an intermediate.
- 5 13. The process according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the trichloromethylated aromatic (III) is not isolated as an intermediate and is used in the second stage dissolved in the solvent of the first stage.